

Art Unit: 1797

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant claims all distinguish over all of the prior art of record for reasons of record as stated in the most recent Office Action of 10/30/2009 and the Interview Summary Record of 12/15/2009, including concerning amending of claims 1 and 13 to amend the feed stream as originating from a fermentation process.

The claims 1 and 13 also distinguish over newly cited patents 6,517,875; 6,509,180 and 3,152,150 which concern drying of solid-containing residue or product from fermentation processes, in view of claiming of displacing water present in interstitial spaces between solids with 1st and then 2nd solvent. These newly cited patents are drawn to drying of fermentation solid-water slurries or mixtures, but not suggesting displacing of water with solvent(s) as claimed. Support for the claim amendment in claims 1 and 13 "from a fermentation process" is found at page 6, lines 4-14 of the Specification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

JWD
4/3/2010
/Joseph W. Drodge/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797